

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The first School Committee meeting for June was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 in the Hanaford School gymnasium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, Sue Cienki, William Day and Merrill Friedemann, as well as Superintendent Michael Jolin, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, and Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Public Comments**

Joanne Leach asked the School Committee members to look into students' eyes during graduation to see who helped them achieve their goals. She noted that the greatness in the schools lies in teachers giving of themselves. She thanked Roger Ferland and the negotiating team for hard work.

Dr. Edward DeAngelo urged the union to accept the current contract offer. He noted that people in the private sector make less money and have fewer benefits than teaches.

## **10.8 Eldredge Charitable Event**

**Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to move this item out of order. The motion passed unanimously. David Peduto, a high school student, gave a description of a cultural event, incorporating film, music and art, planned for July 23, 2005 at the Eldredge Field. He was told that he needs the endorsement of the School Committee because of the school department's insurance policy. Dr. Ross asked about chaperones. Mrs. Friedemann asked about a medical tent. Mrs. Crawford stated that she needs to speak to the school department's insurance carrier and then will work the students and Mr. Sequino. It was noted that this is not a school function. Mr. Gregson feels this is more of a town matter, since the school is only responsible for maintaining the fields. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to give the students permission for the use of Eldredge Field pending Mrs. Crawford calling the insurance company. The motion passed with Mr. Gregson and Dr. Ross voting no. This item will be back on the agenda for June 21, 2005.**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

**May 17, 2005 Regular Meeting and Executive Session meeting minutes. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve these minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

## 6. Advisory Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Gregson stated that the Facilities Committee met and the major issue was the Meadowbrook floor. It was noted that this is too difficult a project to stage during the summer and it will be done in the summer of 2006. Mrs. McAuliffe stated that painting in the vestibules is off because it has to be done after the floors, but now painting can be back on.

## 7. There were no communications

**8. Attendance Reports were accepted for file.**

**9. Financial Reports were accepted for file.**

## 10. New Business

### 10.1a Resignations

**On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the following resignations: It was noted that each of these people has performed a valuable service to the school department.**

**Laurie Ratigan, Varsity Basketball and Football Cheerleading Advisor,  
effective 5-20-05**

**Carolyn Palazzo, Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School,  
effective 6-16-05**

## **Greenwich High School, effective 6-16-05**

**Donna Cancel, Yearbook Advisor at Cole Middle School, at the end of the 04-05 school year**

**Nina Reiner, Yearbook Advisor at Cole Middle School, at the end of the 04-05 school year**

**Ray Pouliot, Model Legislature Advisor at East Greenwich High School, effective 5-31-05**

### **10.1b Retirement**

**On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Gregson the Committee voted unanimously to accept the retirement of John Briggs, Maintenance Worker for the East Greenwich Public Schools after 31 years of service.**

### **10.1c Parental Leave**

**Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to table the parental leave of Onna Holland, Guidance Counselor at Cole Middle School, for the 05-06 school year. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **10.1d Layoffs**

**Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the layoffs of Jane O'Brien, payroll clerk and Gisela LeValley, accounts payable clerk, effective July 1, 2005. It was noted that these layoffs are a result of the consolidation of the school and town finance departments. The motion passed with Dr. Ross abstaining.**

## **10.2 Post Business Office Administrative Assistant**

**Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki**

to approve posting the position of Business Office Administrative Assistant. It was noted that the job description was completed by NESDEC. The motion passed unanimously.

### **10.3 Bid Awards**

#### **10.3a Vestibules at Frenchtown School**

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to award the bid for vestibules at Frenchtown School to ADS Construction in the amount of \$96,000. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **10.3b Electrical Work for unit ventilator work at the high school**

Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann the Committee voted unanimously to award the bid for the electrical proposal to James O'Rourke, Inc. in the amount of \$50,560.00.

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### **10.4 Disposal of Obsolete Textbooks**

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the disposal of obsolete textbooks to Follett Book Company, and also to donate the books not sold to Follet to the Hands Across Water Charity. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **10.5 Disposal of Risograph machine from Frenchtown School**

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the disposal of a risograph machine at the Frenchtown School. The motion passed unanimously.

### **10.6 Creation of an All Day Collaborative Kindergarten at Meadowbrook Farms School**

Mrs. O'Hara stated that an All Day Kindergarten is needed at

Meadowbrook because of students who have intensive needs. She noted that this will be a one year pilot program to be paid out of the grant. Mrs. Cienki feels this money should have been budgeted since these children were in our preschool. Mrs. Friedemann feels more back-up should have been given to School Committee members earlier. Mrs. Carol Brown, the Director of Student Services, stated that early intervention is needed for these students and has to be done first. She feels that full day kindergarten gives students more time to learn. Mrs. Friedemann asked if funding is guaranteed. Mrs. O'Hara stated that the money in the grant normally has been approved. Dr. Jolin stated that the need arose after the budget cycle started. He noted that Mrs. O'Hara and Mrs. Brown are both certified special education directors, and these four students recently came into their notice. Mrs. McAuliffe, Principal of Meadowbrook Farms School, noted that the intensive resource room was full. Dr. Ross agrees about the documentation, but feels that it is a less expensive way to take care of these students.

Dr. Ross made a motion to create an All Day Kindergarten at Meadowbrook Farms School for 2005-2006. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. On a question from Mr. Gregson about the program's evaluation, Mrs. O'Hara responded that the evaluation complies with new regulations to chart their growth from September to June. The motion passed with Mrs. Cienki and Mrs. Friedemann voting no and Mr. Gregson abstaining.

#### **10.7 Use of School Department Mailing Privileges**

Dr. Jolin stated that the parent teacher groups utilize the school

department mailing privileges for bulk mailing, and a parent complained. He noted the Attorney Oliverio will be issuing a decision. Mr. Bradley stated that anything that goes out to the public should be scrutinized by the Superintendent and the PTG's should have their own bulk mail stamp. Dr. Jolin noted that PTG newsletters are not approved by the Superintendent's Office.

#### **10.8 Use of Eldredge Field for a charitable event on July 23, 2005**

There was no discussion on this item.

#### **10.9 Physical Exams for New Hires**

This item will be moved into Executive Session.

### **11. Old Business**

#### **11.1 Revise Facilities Committee Charge**

Mr. Gregson feels that all the work done on the charge was not really necessary, and feels it should be a simple charge because School Committees are the ones making the decisions. Attorney Christine Curley stated that other towns have a facilities committee in their charter. She noted that it is not wise to have other language. Ms. Curley noted that the School Committee has the authority over all these issues, and the initial proposal was contrary to the Town Charter. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the suggested changes to the facilities committee. The motion passed with Mr. Bradley voting no. Dr. Ross made a motion to charge the committee to evaluate the adequacy of Cole Middle School to continue the rehab of Cole as a school versus building a new school building. This was seconded by Mr. Day. Mr. Peter McLaren stated that the committee has to evaluate the concept of a middle

school within that building. Mrs. Friedemann feels that the high school needs to be looked at to see if it can be used as a middle school and a new high school needs to be built. Mr. Gregson stated that it will cost more money to build a new state of the art high school. Dr. Ross stated that the committee should be charged to evaluate the science department and see if the science labs at the

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high school are safe. This was seconded by Mr. Day and passed unanimously. Mr. McLaren stated that he would like to be considered as part of the science department lab discussion plan for the future and the ability to modify them as needed. Mrs. Friedemann stated that the goal is to get the high school into a mold that is state of the art.

## **12. Reports to the School Committee**

There were no reports.

## **13. School Committee Concerns to be addressed to the Superintendent**

Grass cutting at Hanaford is a concern, as well as a bid on audio equipment, and a bench to be placed on the playground at Eldredge.

## **14. School Committee Procedural Business-There was no procedural business**

## **15. School Committee Reminder List-This should be on the next agenda.**

## **16. Visits to Schools-Mr. Martin noted that he visited Meadowbrook and the high school twice.**

## **17. Public Comments (15 minutes)**

**Mrs. Connie McCormack stated that she is concerned that the school system lost a principal, a good science teacher, and excellent teachers have retired. She noted that Governor Carcieri is in the process of settling a contract with state workers. She feels that the morale is so low that teachers may not want to stay later after school. Mrs. McCormack also is concerned about the state of the school system.**

**Mrs. McAuliffe thanked the members of the School Committee who supported the Collaborative All Day Kindergarten.**

**18. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations-Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Central Office Administrators, Litigation Status, Physical Exams for New Hires**

**On a motion made by Mr. Gregson and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:17 p.m.**

**19. Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session**

**20. Adjournment**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**